

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 282

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the Tigers of Middleton High School on their 2005 TSSAA Class A Boys' Basketball State Championship.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to commend and recognize those gifted student-athletes and teams who, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the boys' basketball team at Middleton High School is comprised of such estimable Tennesseans who won the 2005 TSSAA Class A State Championship; and

WHEREAS, through diligence, dedication, and hard work, they maximized their considerable talents and reached the pinnacle of high school athletics; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2005, the Middleton High School boys' basketball team completed their 2004-2005 season with an impressive 31-6 win-loss record; and

WHEREAS, prior to winning the State Championship, the Tigers had compiled a district win-loss record of 14-0 for the 2004-2005 regular season; and

WHEREAS, as a prelude to winning the State Championship, the Middleton High School boys' basketball team was crowned the District 14 and Region 7 Class A Champions; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable basketball team opened the State Tournament against the Temple Crusaders, the number one ranked team in Class A, and the Tigers prevailed with a 77-68 victory; and

WHEREAS, the semifinals brought a matchup against Ezell Harding, who proved to be no match for the Tigers, and Middleton advanced to the State Finals by a score of 82-67; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers were playing in the TSSAA Class A Basketball State Championship Title Game for the first time since 1992 and had to face a tough match against

Trenton Peabody and their Class A Mr. Basketball, but the Middleton High School boys' basketball team was not to be denied their third State Championship Title and shut down their opponents with a 56-49 victory; and

WHEREAS, Marq Murden was named Most Valuable Player of the Tournament, and he was joined on the All-Tournament Team by Monterrio Williams, Chris Smith, and Jamichael McKinnie; and

WHEREAS, their teamwork and focus on a common goal allowed these young men to garner individual honors, but it also precipitated the most impressive honor of all; each member of the team earned that supreme honor, the title of State Champions; and

WHEREAS, the young men who claimed this title were Justin Hill, Jammie Cheairs, Manuel Donis, Johnny Tate, Tabias Murden, Leon Hunt, Monterrio Williams, Chris Smith, Marq Murden, Randy Cheairs, Al McKinnie, Darius Hart, Cody Childers, Chris Buggs, and Jamichael McKinnie; and

WHEREAS, the team was ably guided by highly regarded Head Coach Larry Smalley, who helped precipitate the team's unrivaled success by sharing his deep love and great knowledge of the sport; and

WHEREAS, Coach Smalley gives shared credit to Assistant Coach B.T. Hobbs who helped him every step of the way; and

WHEREAS, the coaches and players received invaluable support from the administration, faculty, and student body of Middleton High School; and

WHEREAS, the men of Middleton have ensured that they will forever be remembered as one of the greatest high school teams ever to grace the basketball courts of West Tennessee, as against great odds they brought the TSSAA Class A State Championship Title home for the third time to Middleton High School; and

WHEREAS, these young men epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved the highest level of success in sports, while evincing the most circumspect character both on and off the court; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young student-athletes not only made possible a championship basketball season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the 2005 Middleton High School Tigers for their success on the court and for serving as fine examples of the high quality of Tennessee's youth; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join the administration, faculty, staff, students, and fans of Middleton High School in celebrating the Tigers' 2005 TSSAA Class A Boys' Basketball State Championship and honor and commend the talented young men who achieved this supreme success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we wish them much continued success and happiness in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.